

Social Work Professional Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
18 June 2014

Leadership Present: CDR Buckingham, Chair
CDR Scottie Epler, Chair Elect and Policy Chair
LCDR Christine Nemeti, Secretary
CDR Todd Cesar, Readiness/Deployment
CDR Jerry Mahlau-Heinert, Mentoring Co-chair
CDR Kathleen Watkins, Career Development
LCDR Tricia Booker, Communications Chair
LCDR Sonjia Howard, Recruitment & Retention
LT Cara Alexander, Membership Chair

Membership Present:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| CAPT Marinna Banks-Shields | LCDR William Bolduc |
| CDR Teresa Baptiste | LCDR Jennifer Bornemann |
| CDR Tina Bryant | LCDR Andrea Cunningham |
| CDR Tarsha Cavanaugh | LCDR Lamar Henderson |
| CDR Scott Conner | LCDR Kimberly Jones |
| CDR Julie Niven | LCDR Kymberly Spady-Grove |
| CDR Brooke Wallace | LT Tyson Baize |
| | LT Elliott Hill |
| | LT Nicole Pascua |

I. Chair Report, CDR Buckingham

- A. Congratulations to all the recently promoted social workers
- B. Thank you to the SWPAG subcommittee chairs for increasing the value of the SWPAG to the Corps

II. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Career Development (CDR Watkins)
 - i. Continues to focus on the No Social Worker Left Behind initiative
- B. Mentorship (CDR Mahlau-Heinert)
 - i. Actively working with the HSPAC on the Guidance and Mentoring Tool, which was presented at COF during roundtable presentations
 - ii. Any mentorship, whether formal or informal, is encouraged.
 - iii. A tool on arranging formal Meet & Greets is being designed.

C. Communications (LCDR Booker)

- i. The SWPAG facebook page is now operational and listed as USPHS SWPAG or at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292892854222444/>
- ii. Please route facebook posting submissions through LCDR Booker.
- iii. The deadline for submissions to the SWPAG newsletter is 30 June 2014.
- iv. Next SWPAG newsletter will be released on 15 July.
- v. All website updates are to be routed through LCDR Peglowski.

D. Policy (CDR Eppler)

- i. CDR Don Schmidt has been named as co-chair.
- ii. The proposed SWPAG bylaws changes regarding voting membership have been submitted to HSPAC and they are requesting changes or edits before approving. Changes are pending the Policy committee's receipt of the requested changes.
- iii. Any questions related to non-recommendation for promotion should be forwarded to CDR Martha Wanca at 204-453-6002 or Martha.Wanca@hhs.gov

E. Awards (CDR Todd Johnson)

- i. New awards are being drafted to present to social workers in specific agencies.
- ii. A workshop is being planned to assist officers with writing up awards.

F. Readiness (CDR Todd Cesar)

- i. Requirements for Basic Ready status will be posted on the SWPAG website and facebook page.
- ii. The committee will work with officers who are not Basic Ready.
- iii. Drafting an award submission for all officers who maintain readiness
- iv. A readiness tip will be included in each SWPAG newsletter
- v. PACE program information will be forthcoming
- vi. A list of needed supplies for various types of deployments is being formulated.
- vii. Working with the Coast Guard to establish a regulation USPHS Physical Training uniform

G. Membership (LT Cara Alexander)

- i. This committee is seeking new members. Please submit your interest to LT Alexander or LCDR Nemeti.

H. Recruitment & Retention (LCDR Howard)

- i. 77 SWPAG officers completed the Social Work Recruitment survey.
- ii. A white paper has been drafted on recommendations from the results of the survey.
- iii. Articles are submitted regularly to the SWPAG newsletter.

III. Report from COF

A. RADM Delaney addressed the SWPAG during a panel discussion

- i. Challenged the SWPAG to strive to add value to the Corps.

- ii. He and CDR Buckingham will be meeting with the Office of the Surgeon General to address issues related to social work.
 - iii. The Corps is being transformed and officers who are willing to give to the Corps and are promoting health are the ones who will be promoted.
- B. Acting Surgeon General Lushniak
 - i. Introduced "Everybody Walk" initiative.
 - ii. Encouraged all officers to be leaders.

IV. Next meeting 10 September 2014 at 1430 EST

- i. Please submit ideas for a Professional Development Section as part of next call to CDR Buckingham.